

Industry Advisory

March 26, 2001

Washington Cattle Producers,

*There has been considerable media coverage surrounding foreign animal disease in cattle abroad over the past few weeks. While there is **NO Foot & Mouth Disease or Mad Cow Disease in the United States**, there are steps that every producer can take to prevent the introduction and spread of foreign animal diseases.*

TEN SIMPLE STEPS

Producers Can Take to Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Foreign Animal Diseases

1. Restrict access to your livestock or facilities by any person who has traveled outside the U.S. in the last 5 days.
2. Clean and disinfect any clothing, possessions, equipment, or vehicles that have traveled outside the U.S. within the last 5 days **before** those items are used in contact with your livestock or facilities.
3. Before allowing them to enter your operation, encourage people who regularly visit other livestock operations to clean and disinfect their footwear, coveralls, vehicle tires, and any equipment that might contaminate susceptible livestock.
4. Require livestock and feedstuff haulers to clean and disinfect their transport vehicles **before** hauling livestock or feedstuffs to or from your operation.
5. Be even more vigilant than usual about cleaning and disinfecting your processing and handling facilities and animal health equipment. Use different equipment for healthy and sick animals.
6. Source feedstuffs and biological supplies from reputable companies and require assurance that all feeds and animal health supplies are free from contamination.
7. Insist on herd of origin and health information on **all** animals and pets before allowing to enter your premises.
8. Prevent contact between healthy animals and those suffering from routine illnesses to protect the immune levels of your herd. Isolate new stock for 2 weeks for observation. Feed, water and treat healthy animals before working with sick animals.
9. Continue to closely monitor the health of your livestock daily and report any suspicious or unusual symptoms to your veterinarian immediately.
10. Control wildlife access to your facilities and livestock, including birds, deer, elk, and other wild animals. Implement an effective rodent, fly and other insect control program.

Thank you for your careful attention to this matter,

*Ed Field, President
Washington Cattle
Feeders Association*

*Vic Jensen, President
Washington State
Dairy Federation*

*Neil Kayser, President
Washington Cattlemen's
Association*

*Alexis Koester, Chair
Washington Dairy Products Commission*

*Casey Lankhaar, Chair
Washington State Beef Commission*